

ORIGINAL ACTION

EA-6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-26
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TO

INFO

FROM

SUBJECT

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

Further to A-17 reporting Cambodian reaction to Ho Chi Minh's death, which included Prince Norodom Sihanouk's attendance at the funeral, there are herewith submitted further details of some interest.

In the A.K.P. of September 10 there appeared the list of the persons with whom Sihanouk met in Hanoi. This is given as of possible interest, especially in the titles given the PRG representatives and mention of a commercial treaty with the PRG, etc.:

President Nguyen Huu THO, PRG — clearly an ungr.
Mme. Nguyen Thi BINH, PRG

Tho is quoted as reaffirming complete recognition of Cambodia's frontiers and as stating that agreement had been reached on a commercial treaty between the RKG and PRG.

Maitre Trinh Dinh THAO, President, Alliance of Democratic and Peace Forces of South Viet-Nam
Venerable Thich Don HAU, Vice-President, Alliance of Democratic and Peace Forces of South Viet-Nam
Professor Le Van HAO, Member, Alliance of Democratic and Peace Forces of South Viet-Nam
President Tchoe Yong KEUN, representing Kim Il Sung
Prince SOUPHANOUVONG, Neo Lao Haksat leader who reportedly expressed his agreement with Sihanouk in favor of the application of the 1962 Geneva Accords in order to return peace and neutrality to Laos.

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A-26 from Phnom Penh

Vice-Premier LI Hsien-Nien, PRC, with a message from CHOU en Lai.
H.E. Dinesh SINGH, Foreign Minister of India

In his departure statement from Hanoi on September 11, Prince Sihanouk, after usual flowery phrases about Ho Chi Minh, continued:

"My close and affectionate meetings with His Excellency Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, as well as with the representatives of our friends and brothers of the South, President Nguyen Huu Tho as well as Maitre Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Alliance of the Democratic and Peace Forces, accompanied by members of their delegations, gave me a profound satisfaction. I regain my country very confident with respect to our relations for our friendship, our solidarity, as well as our mutual respect, are much strengthened....

"In this spirit I wish to reaffirm the unreserved support of Cambodia for Viet-Nam's position as regards a return to peace. I wish to specify that this support is applied to the Four Points of the DRVN foreseeing that the USG must withdraw its troops, military personnel and arms of all types from South Viet-Nam, liquidate its military bases established there and put an end to its policy of intervention and aggression in South Viet-Nam, that South Viet-Nam's affairs may be settled by its people without foreign intervention, that the peaceful reunification of Viet-Nam be the business of the peoples of the two zones without foreign intervention. Our total support goes also to the principles and details necessary for the global solution proposed by the NLF of South Viet-Nam and the PRG which we consider the only ones able to provide a base for an accord ending the war in South Viet-Nam....

"Finally, I wish to express the great pleasure which I shall have in welcoming...S.E. Pham Van Dong on the occasion of his next state visit to Cambodia."

Comment: Besides the possible significance in the title of President given Nguyen Tho, the list of persons received by Sihanouk contains no particular surprises. It is interesting to note he received all SVN groups present and gave all equal words of comfort in his departure statement.

His declaration regarding South Viet-Nam and the solution of that war conforms with his advice to Senator Mansfield that the U.S. should drop South Viet-Nam and get out. It is obvious also that, in this line, he does not favor a UN or other neutral force to enforce or supervise any solution or vote. On the whole, it is not a surprising statement for the Prince, as he tries to keep the Vietnamese friendly, while basically disliking and fearing them. His very trip to Hanoi, while it may have caused some raised eyebrows, was certainly a political move toward a leader whom he reportedly disliked and had never met, which, nevertheless, allowed him to make a long-overdue visit to Hanoi without its being a state occasion.

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